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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE:

1. On 17 July 1953 headquarters of the North Hamgyong Construction Trust¹ was in three houses in a mountain valley at Konhwa-ri, Ch'ongjin. One was used as a meeting house and was 15 meters long, 5 meters wide, and 2.5 meters high, with a tile roof and brick walls. Immediately to the rear of this building were two houses each 20 meters long, 4 meters wide, and 2.5 meters high, with tile roofs and red brick walls. One of these served as an office for the trust headquarters, the other, offices for the trust's Labor Party (LP) staff members, the Democratic Youth Association, and the Women's Association. These houses were built in May 1953.
2. Organizations within the trust included the Democratic Youth Association, the Women's Association, an Employees' Union, an LP cell for staff members, and four LP cells for laborers in each of four working units. Regardless of position, all men between the ages of 18 and 45, and all women between 18 and 30, were required to participate in the trust self-defense unit. The trust LP members belonged to a separate self-defense unit which was controlled by the police and which would be provided arms in case of necessity. One armed self-defense unit member was on guard at the main entrance of the office.
3. Employed at the trust were a manager, HAN T'ae-yong (7281/3141/3057), aged 38, an LP member who was formerly a steel laborer; one chief technician; and one vice-manager who was in charge of the following six divisions: Staff Members, Payment, Technicians, Transportation, General Administration, and Fiscal. There were about 30 staff clerks. The Transportation Division was equipped with one truck and about 10 ox carts.
4. On 10 June 1953 the chief of the Planning Division was SIM Sang-sol (3088/4161/1), aged 30, a native of Najin, an LP member and formerly a policeman. The chief of the Labor Division was WI Chong-chin (7279/2973/6966), aged 35, a native of Ch'ongjin, and an LP member.

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5. Of the 1,300 laborers employed at the trust, about 80 percent were women, most of whose families had gone to South Korea. Others included people who had been discharged from governmental positions because of their errors, defected South Korean agents who were under Interior Bureau surveillance, and discharged North Korean army soldiers. The wage scale for laborers varied. The third-grade wage was 30 won daily; fourth-grade, 35 won; and fifth-grade, 40 won. Each laborer was allotted a daily ration of 700 grams of grain for himself and 400 grams for each member of his family. The grain was distributed three times a month at a cost determined by the government. A laborer was also issued one set of winter and one set of summer clothing, shoes, soap, and other consumer goods at a government-regulated price. Occasionally clothing was distributed as relief goods from satellite nations.
 6. According to propaganda of the People's Committee in January 1953, the trust would be responsible after a truce was signed for rebuilding Ch'ongjin into a city large enough for one million people. The administrative area would be expanded to include Nanam (N 41-43, E 129-41) (EB-5718), Ch'ongam-myon (EB-6231), and a part of Songmang-myon (EB-6033). All the houses in Ch'ongjin were to be torn down and replaced by four and five-story houses. The ground level in the P'ohang-dong area would be raised one meter. A tramcar line would be built between Nanam and Ch'ongjin. At Sunam, in Ch'ongjin, the largest race track in the Orient would be built. The Ch'ongjin railroad would be moved to Sunam. A park would be established in the Chonma-san and Kolma-san areas.
 7. The Susong river canal would be enlarged so as to accommodate 60-ton ships as far as the Susong Railway Station. Ch'ongjin harbor, capable of handling 5,000-ton ships, would be rebuilt in order to handle ships of 10,000 tons. The plan for the harbor was ordered by the North Korean government. Funds for the project would be partially provided by the Soviet Union and other nations friendly to North Korea.
 8. In late June 1953 a trust factory was at Myongsong and Chonma Streets in Ch'ongjin. In some respects the factory was similar to a reformatory, since the laborers included reactionaries and South Korean agents who had been sentenced to hard labor. War refugees and general laborers were also included. All were billeted within the factory compound. Their work included reconstruction of houses damaged by UN air attacks. They were paid 600 won monthly.
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1. Comment. In 1952 the North Korean government established the Construction Trust, an organization designed to provide employment for war sufferers. Workers concentrated on repairing ruined government houses, repairing tunnels, building temporary government houses, digging trenches for the army, and digging canals. Some of the reconstruction work in Ch'ongjin was begun in November 1952.

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